
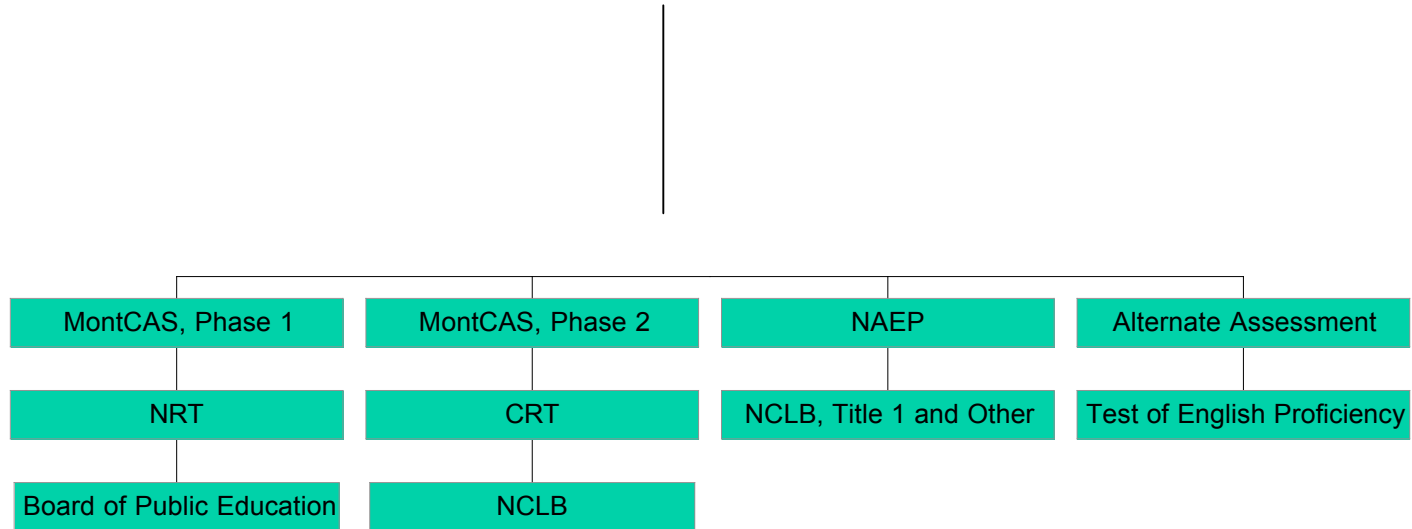


The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

The logo for MontCAS features the word "Mont" in a blue, serif font and "CAS" in a red, serif font. The letters are stylized with a slight 3D effect and are positioned below the main title.

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Assessment Components



MontCAS Phase 1

- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 10.56.101)
- Norm-referenced test (NRT), the Iowas
 - Compares student achievement to a national norm
- Riverside Publishing Company
- Grades 4, 8, 11
- Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science
- First statewide administration, 2001
- Funded by state
- 2004 Testing Window: Mar 8 – Mar 26

MontCAS Phase 2

- Required by compliance agreement with USED and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
- Criterion-referenced test (CRT)
 - Compares student achievement to Montana content standards
- Measured Progress and Montana's CRT
 - Progress Towards Standards (PTS): Off the shelf test
 - Montana Augmented Items: Developed in and for Montana
- Schedule
 - Spring 2004* and 2005
 - Reading and Math, Grades 4, 8, & 10
 - **2004 Testing Window: March 29 – April 16**
 - Spring 2006* and 2007
 - Reading and Math, Grades 3-8 & 10
 - Spring 2008
 - Reading and Math, Grades 3-8 & 10
 - *Science, Grades 4, 8, 10
- Funded through NCLB

*First administration Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction,
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent, 10/03

FACTS About the CRT

- Multiple choice and constructed response
- Calculator use on portions of test
- Untimed—guidelines will be provided
- Items will be released with the results
- Practice and sample items will be online in November 2003
- Statewide video conference on “Preparing for the CRT” – November 21

NAEP

- Required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
 - Every other year beginning in 2003
 - Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math
 - Statewide sample
- National Assessment of Educational Progress—performance results, trends, and comparisons of Montana students to national students
- Montana participation both before and after federal requirement.
 - Federal requirement for grades 4 and 8 in Reading and Math began spring 2003—odd years

MontCAS Testing Schedule - 2004

- March 2004 NRT 4, 8, 11
 - Test window: March 8 – 26, 2004
- March 2004 CRT: 4, 8, 10
 - Test window: March 29 – April 16
- May 2004 NRT results to districts
- Summer 2004 Standard setting for CRT
- August 2004 CRT Results to districts

Testing Time

Statewide Testing--Spring 2003

| | MontCAS, Phase 1 2003 | NAEP, 2003 | MontCAS, Phase 2 Pilot , 2003 | Total, 2003 |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Grade | Testing Time | | | |
| 3 | Not tested | Not tested | 45 minutes* | 45 minutes |
| 4 | 5 hours, 26 minutes | 90 minutes* | 45 minutes* | 7 hours 46 minutes |
| 5 | Not tested | Not tested | 45 minutes* | 45 minutes |
| 6 | Not tested | Not tested | 45 minutes* | 45 minutes |
| 7 | Not tested | Not tested | 45 minutes* | 45 minutes |
| 8 | 5 hours, 26 minutes | 90 minutes* | 45 minutes* | 7 hours 46 minutes |
| 10 | Not tested | Not tested | 45 minutes* | 45 minutes |
| 11 | 4 hours, 20 minutes | Not tested | Not tested | 4 hours, 20 minutes |

* Only students in
the samples

Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction,
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent, 10/03

Testing Time

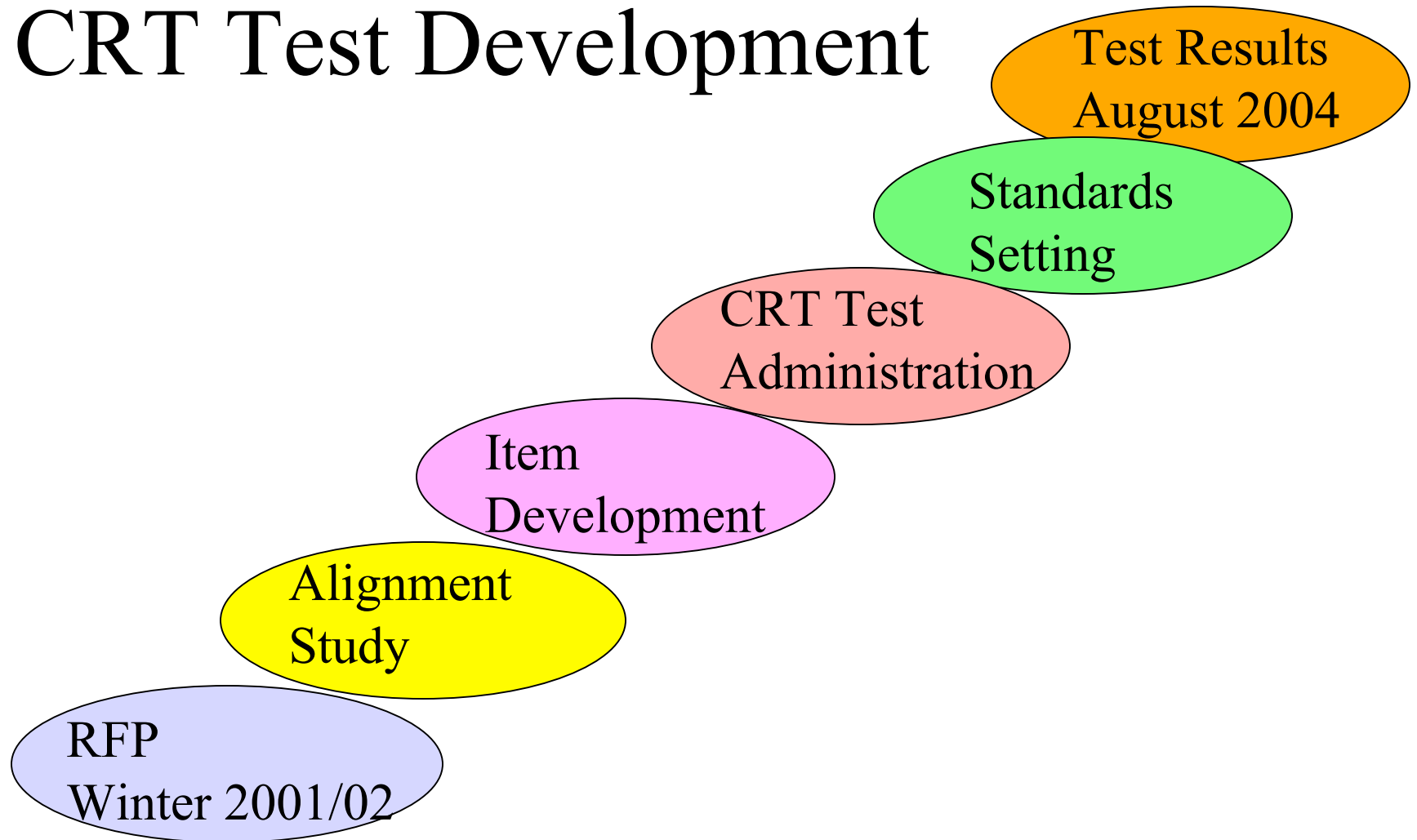
Statewide Testing—Spring 2004

| | MontCAS, Phase 1 2004 | MontCAS, Phase 2 2004* | Total, 2004 |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Grade | Testing Time | | |
| 3 | Not tested | Not tested | Not tested |
| 4 | 5 hours, 26 minutes | 4 hours, 30 minutes | 9 hours, 56 minutes |
| 5 | Not tested | Not tested | Not tested |
| 6 | Not tested | Not tested | Not tested |
| 7 | Not tested | Not tested | Not tested |
| 8 | 5 hours, 26 minutes | 4 hours, 30 minutes | 9 hours, 56 minutes |
| 10 | Not tested | 4 hours, 30 minutes | 4 hours, 30 minutes |
| 11 | 4 hours, 20 minutes | Not tested | 4 hours, 20 minutes |
| * Suggested testing time/untimed test. | | | |

Proficiency Levels

- NRT based on national stanines (NS) and a Spring 2003 teacher validation survey on the NRT
 - Novice 1 – 3
 - Nearing Proficient 4
 - Proficient 5 – 7
 - Advanced 8 – 9
- CRT—based on achievement levels on Montana content standards
 - Standard setting in July will set cut scores

CRT Test Development



RFP
Winter 2001/02

- Requirements of Compliance Agreement and No Child Left Behind
- Proposals received and reviewed
- Contractor selected: Measured Progress, Inc.

Alignment Study

- All proposals included
 - Off-the-shelf test
 - Internal alignment study to Montana content standards—by publisher
 - Process for augmenting the off-the-shelf test
- After selection—external alignment study by Northwest Regional Educational Lab
 - Alignment studies determine item development plan

Item Development

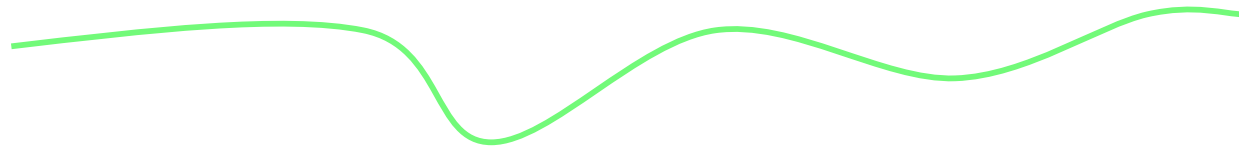
- Progress Towards Standards (PTS)
- Montana items—based on alignment study
- Item Writing
- Content Review
- Bias Review
- Pilot Test
- Item Selection

CRT Test Administration

- Spring 2004
- First administration of CRT
 - Grades 4, 8, 10
 - Reading and Math

Standards Setting

- Set cut scores for proficiency levels for each new implementation
- For each new implementation—Summer of that year



Test Results August 2004

- For the first implementation of each test, the results will be ready late August.
- In subsequent implementations of each test, the results will be ready before school is out.



Supporting the Participation of *All* Students in Standards-Based Assessments

Why is this important?

- Legislation (IDEA/NCLB) requires their participation.
- Students are more likely to benefit from instructional changes and educational reforms when they are included in the accountability system.
- “.....a system is accountable for *all* students when it makes sure that all students count in the evaluation program of the education system.”
(Thurlow, Elliott & Ysseldyke, 1998)

An alternate assessment is.....

- A method of measuring the performance of students unable to participate in the typical assessment, even when accommodations are provided.
- All states provide this as an option for students with severe disabilities.
- MT – thinking more broadly about who this might encompass.
- Pressure exists to limit use of this option to a small percentage of students.

For Students with Disabilities:

ARM, Chapter 56 – Assessment, 10.56.101(7)(a)(I)

- The IEP team has the authority to specify accommodations to be provided
- If the team determines that accommodations would still not support adequate measurement, the IEP team may waive participation in the *standard test*, using instead an alternate assessment to measure student progress toward content standards.

MontCAS Phase 2 Alternate

- Evidence-based approach
- Performance tasks that provide the context in which teachers can observe student performance relative to MT content standards
- Benchmarks have been extended to encompass non-grade level performance

Development Activities and Schedule

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 8/2003 | Teacher work groups generated ideas for activities in reading and math |
| 8-10/2003 | Activities refined and formatted by Measured Progress |
| 11/2003 | Beta testing/review of activities – special educators and Advisory Groups; modifications based on feedback |
| 2/2004 | Training to implement new assessment |
| 3/2004 | Implementation: Grades 4, 8, 10 |

For Students with Limited English Proficiency

ARM, Chapter 56 – Assessment, 10.56.101(7)(b)

- Team of educators can specify accommodations necessary to participate in state-level assessment
- For students who have had fewer than 3 years of instruction in English, the team may waive the statewide assessment in favor of the alternate assessment

Test of English Proficiency

- NCLB requires that the English language proficiency of LEP students be annually assessed.
 - Assessment must measure listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension.
- Mountain West Consortium
 - Funded by Enhanced Assessment Grant, NCLB
- Tentative Schedule
 - August 2003 Item Development
 - March/April 2004 Pilot
 - Sept./Oct 2004 Field Test

Future Updates

- Will be added to this power point
- Consult JUMP, the OPI online assessment newsletter
 - Published monthly
 - <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/newsletters/>